

CONFIDENTIAL

[Signature]
3 September 1948

MEMORANDUM TO: Executive Director, Committee on Geographical
Exploration, RDB

SUBJECT: CIA Interest in Coastal Geography

REFERENCE: Memorandum from the Executive Director, Committee on
Geographical Exploration, RDB, dated 10 March 1948.

1. The Central Intelligence Agency recognizes the importance of developing techniques for obtaining suitable information and preparing adequate maps of coastal zone areas to meet present and future requirements of the Armed Forces. It is not, however, presently engaged in any systematic studies of coastal zones nor are any studies of this character being planned.

2. The staff of the Map Branch, CIA, has prepared a report on Mar-Geo, the former Marine Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Amtsgruppe Nautik, of the Oberkommando der Kriegsmarine. This report was issued in September, 1947, by the Department of State as OIR No. 3704. It described the organization and the techniques used by this unit of the German Navy and evaluated the work that was accomplished under its direction. The source materials used in the preparation of this report are on file in the Map Branch, CIA.

3. Because of its responsibility for the over-all coordination of the National Intelligence Surveys program, the CIA has particular interest in any developments which will assist in providing the most effective treatment of basic intelligence pertaining to coasts and landing beaches for areas to be treated in this program.

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Approved.
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B/Ma: [redacted] :apk
cc: Asst. Dir., ORE (1)
G/Ba, ORE (1)
Map Branch, ORE (2)
Central Records (1)

[redacted]
Chief, Map Branch

Member, Panel on Geographic
Environment, Committee on
Geographical Exploration, RDB